

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A power converter, comprising:  
an input adapted for receiving an AC input signal and a DC input signal;  
circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC input signal  
5 providing a converted DC signal and responsive to said DC input signal providing  
said converted DC signal, said converted DC signal having electrical  
characteristics which are selectable;  
programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a  
selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and  
10 cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said  
converted DC signal based on said selection code.
2. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said electrical  
characteristics comprise signal voltage, signal current, signal power, signal  
15 polarity, and over-voltage protection threshold.
3. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said circuitry  
comprises a variable resistive element such that values of resistance are selected  
based on said selection code, and wherein each value of resistance establishes a  
20 corresponding signal voltage for said converted DC signal.
4. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is  
configured to be removable from said programming circuitry.
- 25 5. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is  
adapted to be programmed when said memory is one of coupled with said  
programming circuitry and de-coupled from said programming circuitry.

6. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said memory is an electrically-programmable read-only memory (EPROM).

7. The power converter as specified in Claim 1, wherein said programming  
5 circuitry further has an input for receiving a programming signal indicative of said selection code and responsive thereto storing said selection code in said memory.

8. The power converter as specified in Claim 7, wherein said programming  
10 circuitry input is adapted for receiving program signaling from a programming controller remotely via the Internet.

9. The power converter as specified in Claim 7, wherein said programming  
circuitry is further adapted for receiving program signaling from one of an optical  
signaling device, a magnetic induction signaling device, an acoustic signaling  
15 device, and direct connection signaling devices.

10. The power converter as specified in Claim 1 further comprising a plug-in  
device coupled to said programming circuitry and adapted for receiving said  
memory for coupling with said programming circuitry.

20

11. A power converter system, comprising:  
an input adapted for receiving an AC input signal and a DC input signal;  
circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC input signal  
providing a converted DC signal and responsive to said DC input signal providing  
5 said converted DC signal, wherein said converted DC signal has selectable  
electrical characteristics;  
programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and cooperable  
therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said converted DC  
signal based on a selection code;
- 10 a coupler coupled to said programming circuitry, said coupler having a  
socket adapted to receive a removable memory and couple said memory and said  
programming circuitry, wherein said selection code is provided from said  
memory; and  
an output coupled with said programming circuitry for outputting said  
15 converted DC signal.
12. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said selection code is  
indicative of an electrical characteristic selection and is readable from said  
memory by said programming circuitry for imposing said electrical characteristic  
20 selection upon said converted DC signal.
13. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for  
programming of said selection code when said memory is one of inserted into said  
coupler and removed from said coupler.
- 25 14. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for  
receiving program signaling from one of an optical signaling device, a magnetic

induction signaling device, an acoustic signaling device, and direct connection signaling devices.

15. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is adapted for  
5 receiving program signaling from a programming controller remotely via the Internet.

16. The system as specified in Claim 11 further comprising a variable resistive  
element having values of resistance which are effectuated based on said electrical  
10 characteristic selection, wherein each value of resistance establishes a  
corresponding signal voltage for said converted DC signal.

17. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said programming circuitry  
further has an input for receiving a programming signal indicative of said  
15 selection code and responsive thereto storing said selection code in said memory.

18. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said memory is an erasable-  
programmable read-only memory (EPROM) and said coupling is a plug-in device  
adapted to receive said EPROM.

20

19. The system as specified in Claim 11, wherein said electrical characteristics  
comprise signal voltage, signal current, signal power, signal polarity, and over-  
voltage protection threshold.

20. A power converter, comprising:  
an input adapted for receiving an AC signal;  
circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said AC signal for  
converting said AC signal to a DC signal, said DC signal having electrical  
5 characteristics which are selectable;  
programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a  
selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and  
cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said DC  
signal based on said selection code.
- 10
21. A power converter, comprising:  
an input adapted for receiving a DC input signal;  
circuitry coupled to said input and responsive to said DC input signal for  
15 converting said DC input signal to another DC signal, said another DC signal  
having electrical characteristics which are selectable;  
programming circuitry having a programmable memory for storing a  
selection code, said programming circuitry coupled with said circuitry and  
cooperable therewith for imposing select electrical characteristics upon said  
20 another DC signal based on said selection code.